

THE THREAT OF MZIA AMAGHLOBELI'S VISION LOSS REMAINS BEYOND PROPER RESPONSE



Mzia Amaghlobeli, the recipient of the European Union's highest human rights award, the Sakharov Prize, and a political prisoner, has been in unlawful detention since 12 January 2025.

Following her placement in the penitentiary facility, Mzia Amaghlobeli's vision has significantly deteriorated. Despite medical recommendations and multiple requests made by her lawyer, she has still not undergone the high-technology examinations necessary to assess her condition, which hinders treatment planning and creates a risk of irreversible harm.

MEDICAL HISTORY RELEVANT TO THE VISION



- **2013:** Mzia Amaghlobeli was diagnosed with **keratoconus in the left eye**. She underwent surgery in Turkey, after which her vision was preserved at only **2%** but remained stable due to the right eye.
- Since then, she has required high-technology ophthalmological examinations **every 3–6 months**, which she underwent regularly until her unlawful detention.
- **In 2025, prior to detention:** Vision in the right eye was **approximately 30% (0.3)**, with potential correction **up to 90%** by glasses.

DETERIORATION OF THE CONDITION DURING IMPRISONMENT

- After being placed in the penitentiary facility, Mzia Amaglobeli's vision has **deteriorated alarmingly**.
- **4 February 2025:** Correction of the right eye was possible **up to 60%**.
- **Within 2 days:** The vision was dropped **by 20%**. Correction was possible only **up to 40%**, instead of the pre-detention potential of **90%**.
- **According to research conducted in July 2025:** vision in the right eye is **10-20%** and can be corrected to **30-40%**, while vision in the left eye is **1%** and cannot be corrected.
- **Since July, Mzia Amaglobeli has not undergone any new examinations, and** it is unknown whether further deterioration has occurred.

Despite medical assessments that clearly demonstrate the alarming deterioration of Mzia Amaglobeli's vision during her stay in prison, the penitentiary facility has not taken any effective measures to plan adequate examinations and appropriate treatment, nor has the cause of such a dramatic deterioration of vision been identified.

LACK OF ACCESS TO PROPER MEDICAL SERVICE

- Mzia Amaglobeli and her lawyer have multiple times requested full-scale examinations in specialized clinics: **"New Hospitals National Ophthalmology Center"** where medical history of the patient's previous examination is stored and where **comparison of topographic data** is possible or **"Caucasus Medical Center"**.
- The patient herself undertook willingness to cover the costs of examinations – there is no additional financial obligation on the state.
- Nevertheless, the patient was transferred to the **"Mzera"** clinic, where it is not possible to plan the necessary treatment.

PROBLEMS OF EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED IN “MZERA”

- The recommendation was issued only **regarding the right eye to perform cross-linking**; **No recommendation was made concerning the left eye**, despite its nearly non-existent vision.
- The patient **was not provided with explanations** regarding the risks, outcomes, or alternatives of the procedure – which violates the **right to informed consent**.

THE LAWYER’S REQUESTS REMAINED WITHOUT AN ANSWER

Despite the severe deterioration of Mzia Amaghlobeli’s health, four letters sent by her lawyer, Maia Mtsariashvili, remained without any answer. The letters requested transfer to a specialized clinic, comprehensive diagnostics, and treatment planning.

LEGAL ASSESSMENT

- During detention, the state bears **enhanced obligation** to protect health and to ensure adequate medical service.
- According to international standards, the state is obliged to:
 - Ensure **proper quality of medical service**;
 - Ensure **access to specialists**;
 - Conduct **timely diagnostics** and **plan individualized treatment**.
- In the case of Mzia Amaghlobeli, these obligations have been clearly breached – she has been restricted:
 - ✓ Access to choose a clinic
 - ✓ Access to informed consent
 - ✓ Access to timely examinations and treatment
 - ✓ The right to health protection

In addition to her liberty, Mzia Amaghlobeli has been deprived of the right to undergo examinations in a clinic equipped with medical technology compatible with her diagnosis, to receive information, based on proper examinations, what procedures are necessary to preserve her vision at a minimal level, what medical consequences the chosen treatment entails, what health risks are expected, whether there are alternative treatment options, and what possible risks are associated with refusing medical care. Accordingly, Mzia Amaghlobeli has been deprived of the right to make an informed decision regarding treatment aimed at preserving her vision and, consequently, the right to health.

OUR REQUESTS

1 TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF GEORGIA

To immediately ensure:

- Transfer of Mzia Amaghlobeli to a fully equipped clinic: **“New Hospitals National Ophthalmology Center”** or **“Caucasus Medical Center”**.
- Conduct of **high-technology diagnostics** on both eyes.
- **Selection of a full treatment plan** based on the examinations to preserve her vision.

2. TO THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OF GEORGIA

- To assess within a short term whether Mzia Amaghlobeli’s **right to an adequate medical service has been violated**.
- If necessary, to engage **medical experts of relevant specializations** for the preparation of an assessment.

Mzia Amaghlobeli notified the administration of the prison following: “[...] the provider clinic of your facility - „Mzera“ does not possess the modern/required equipment and its conducted examinations could not demonstrate a comprehensive picture. Moreover, the doctor from clinic „Mzera“, who issued the recommendation, has not talked to me. My questions regarding what risks the recommended manipulation on the eye involves and what the potential outcome would be, remain without answer. I understand that there are no guarantees in the medical sphere, and, accordingly, none of them are issued and I do not expect any. However, considering the fact that only in one eye (the right) do I retain the degree of vision that enables me mainly, with the use of glasses, to read, I am obliged to be more cautious in making decisions. I consider it possible to preserve and/or improve my vision based on my medical history in a clinic equipped with modern technology, where doctors have experience in treating patients with a keratoconus diagnosis”.